

Public comments on asbestos situation in township

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SSAIC TWP. — After danger-
high levels of asbestos were
found on two properties in
Meyersville late last month, the
owners were advised to
urgently relocate.

1. to keep the public from con-
tact with the asbestos, the
Environmental Protection
Agency posted signs prohibiting ac-
cess to the properties.

Exposure to asbestos has been
linked to cause lung cancer and as-
bestosis.

The problem has its roots with an
asbestos siding manufacturer, for-
based in Millington, which
used two sites as asbestos dump-
sites about 20 years ago.

The manufacturing site, National
Asbestos, has since closed down and
is declared a Superfund site by

the federal government, with the two
dumping grounds categorized as as-
bestos sites.

Visitors to Hill View Farm in
Meyersville, owned by Eleanor and
Edward Kielblock, were asked if
they had known about the asbestos
problem in the township and if they
were concerned about potential
health hazards.

Apparently the only Meyersville
residents who were unaware of the
situation were newcomers to the
area.

Most of the people were well
aware of the presence of large quan-
tities of asbestos in Meyersville, but
despite the potential health threat no
one seemed particularly concerned.

Dorothy Fox is a newcomer to
Millington. She had heard about the
asbestos from the newspaper reports
but seemed shocked listening to oth-
ers talk about the presence of asbes-

tos in the area.

"We live adjacent to the (Green)
Swamp in a newer home. My hus-
band has dug in the yard (for flower
beds) and never saw anything."

She expressed many people's frus-
tration when she said, "God. High
taxes, asbestos, Central School has
problems. You can't build on your
property and need permits to fill."
She shook her head as she left.

Millington resident Kathryn
Schuler said she knew that "asbestos
was left on the (Passaic) River bank
and covered with something" years
ago when the factory was operating.

She speculated that a lot of the as-
bestos must have found its way into
the river and contaminated it. She
also remembered that asbestos was
found during the construction of the
sewage treatment plant.

Schuler lives in a house built in the
early 1900's and was fairly certain

that there was no asbestos on her
property.

"I wouldn't rent our home, we
aren't near the factory."

Told that the posted signs weren't
near the factory, she suggested
that asbestos had been brought in as
fill years ago. "I heard it was used
for driveways all the time."

She was unaware of the Superfund
site but when told about it laughed
and said sardonically, "Move to the
country and see what happens."

Longtime Giletic resident Pat-
rick Seifried said "I heard about it
years ago. An oldtimer told me it
was used for fill in Passaic Town-
ship, but especially here in
Meyersville."

Martha Urbanek, a Meyersville
resident and owner of the Trading
Post, seemed amused by the ques-
tion. "Asbestos in Meyersville? I see
(Please see Residents on page 12.)

Township

(Continued)

also would be located in Stirling, and
one would be active and the other pas-
sive.

Another site would be at the Senior
Citizens housing complex off Valley
Road near the intersection of Main
Avenue in Stirling. It would include a
garden area and benches.

Another site would be near the Mil-
lington Station Cafe on Division Ave-
nue in Millington. It would be passive,
and would include landscaping and
benches.

A park at Francine Place and Wa-
verly Avenue in Millington would be
active.

Finally, the Hicks tract on Largo
Drive in Millington would be active,
and would have a pathway system.

Leonard of the Planning Advi-
sory Committee commented that "we
also envision that the affected neigh-
borhoods could help in the design of
the park."

The Planning Advisory Committee
needs \$4,200 from the Township
Committee to cover the cost of apply-
ing for the loan from Green Acres.

Township Committee members in-
dicated that they would decide on the
matter at a later meeting.

—By FRANK SULLIVAN
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